

ORCHARD PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

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School Web Page <http://orc.scdsb.on.ca>

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Eileen Wise
Principal

NOVEMBER 2013

Jennifer Brown
Vice Principal

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Progress cards will go home November 8, 2013, please make sure you set a time to meet with your child's teacher to discuss academic progress. Our family photo night was a huge success and we thank those people who participated in our magazine drive to help pay for busing and field trips. Fresh air is good for the kids and although we can't always rely on the weather, please send your children dressed appropriately. Be ready for all kinds of weather, rain, cold and snow. We continue to provide snacks to supplement lunches. They are not intended to replace lunch. If at any time you would like to donate food items such as apples, bananas or cheerios please send them to the office.

REMEMBERANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

Monday, November 11, 2013. Students are encouraged to wear their uniforms to this assembly if they are in air cadets, boy scouts, girl guides etc. All other students are encouraged to wear red shirts. Students will earn house points for wearing uniforms or red.



NEW! PARENT PORTAL

The SCDSB Parent Portal is a secure online tool which provides parents and guardians quick access to their children's attendance, assessment information and important school announcements. Parents can set up daily, weekly or monthly email alerts for attendance information. Parents will receive registration and login information later this year.

2013-214 SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

One of the goals in the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) improvement plan is to provide a safe, supportive learning environment that supports all students in being successful. From mid-November to late December, all students in grades 4 to 12 will be asked to complete an anonymous online survey at school about how they feel about their school. This survey provides students with the opportunity to say what is great about their

school, as well as express their concerns. The survey results will provide valuable feedback to staff and will help schools to develop their Safe Schools Plans. Students will not be asked to provide their names and all student responses will be combined to ensure confidentiality. Your child's teacher will supervise the class during the survey and can answer any questions or concerns your child may have. Please call the school if you have questions about how this survey will be implemented in your child's class.

GRADE 5 – 8 AUTHOR VISIT!

An author, Richard Scrimger, will be visiting our school on Wed. Nov. 6. He is part of Orca's Seven Series written by seven authors. Classes from Gr. 5-7 are invited to attend. As a special treat, all seven of the authors of this series will be at Regent Park P.S. that night (Nov. 6) from 7 -8:30 p.m. There is no cost for students to attend this night presentation with their parents. (A form was sent home last week, with gr. 6-8 students, to reserve space at this evening presentation.)

The Writer's Union of Canada has partially subsidized this event, as have school funds. We would be very grateful if parents in gr. 5-7 would like to make a voluntary \$1 or \$2 donation to help offset the cost which allows us bring in these authors.

GRADE 8 INFORMATION NIGHTS

Is your child starting Grade 9 next year? High school information nights happen this winter! Information nights give an overview of what's new and what to expect, and are a chance to ask questions.

High school is an exciting time—there are so many programs, clubs and activities for students to try. Attend the information night (see schedule on SCDSB's website here:

<http://www.scdsb.on.ca/Schools/Pages/highschool.aspx> to find out what's offered at your local high school. If you can't attend an event, call your local public high school to book an appointment to visit.

NAVIGATING SPECIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP ON NOVEMBER 27

A free workshop called *Navigating Special Education* is offered to parents in the SCDSB. The purpose of the workshop is to increase understanding of Special Education in the SCDSB. The workshop will cover the

following topics: what is special education, understanding special education processes in the SCDSB, the role of the Special Education Advisory Committee, how to access available resources; communication, assessment and data collection, Individual Education Plans (IEPs), and also provide information on why and when Strengths and Needs Committees (SNCs) and Identification Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs) occur.

The workshop takes place on Wednesday, November 27 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the following locations:

- Huron Park Public School - 425 Robert Street, Midland, ON
- Orchard Park Public School - 24 Calverley Street, Orillia, ON
- Allandale Heights Public School - 124 Bayview Drive, Barrie, ON
- Connaught Public School - 300 Peel Street, Collingwood, ON
- W.H. Day Elementary School - 410 Maplegrove Avenue, Bradford, ON

To register, contact Hailey McLean at 705-734-6363 ext. 11801 or hmclean@scdsb.on.ca or Brodie Wilson at 705-734-6363 ext. 11566 or bwilson@scdsb.on.ca.

FREE LET'S TALK WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS

Steele Street Community Council invites all SCDSB parents to the following free *Let's Talk* workshops in November:

- Coping with Stress - Thursday Nov. 14, 6:15 -7:30 p.m.
- Self-Esteem - Thursday Nov. 21, 6:15 -7:30 p.m.

Both workshops are held at Steele Street Public School, 36 Steele Street in Barrie. Call the school at 705-728-9292 to register. Free pizza and healthy snacks will be served and free childcare is available (for children 4 years and up). For more information on Parent Workshops, visit: <http://www.scdsb.on.ca/Parents/Pages/Workshops.aspx>.

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK ABOUT THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN ONTARIO

The Ontario Ministry of Education is inviting input on the development of the next phase of Ontario's education strategy. Individuals can provide feedback through an online submission form here:

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/survey.html.

The deadline to provide feedback is Nov. 15. For more information about the consultation, visit

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/excellent.html.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DECEMBER 20, 2013 P.A. DAY

As you know, we have a PA Day scheduled for Dec. 20. Usually on PA Days, teachers are at school participating in professional development. The Dec. 20 day is an unpaid day for teachers required as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding between ETFO (and OSSTF) and the Ministry of Education. This means teachers are not expected to be at school that day—our parking lot will be relatively empty. We wanted to make sure you had this information.

VOLUNTEER POLICY UPDATED

In September 2013, the SCDSB Policy on Volunteers in Schools (APM 3250) was updated to include the ability for parents or community members to now oversee school extra-curricular activities when staff members are not available. The Policy now includes the following revision:

At the discretion of the Principal, under the direction of the board, volunteers may oversee extra-curricular activities; when staff are not available. Community volunteer coaches will be subject to a board application, screening and training process commensurate with the level of risk of the activity as described in the administrative procedure memorandum (APM 7220, Volunteers in Schools). The expectation of GBSSA and OFSAA regarding teacher supervision at those events will be addressed in every case.

For more information on SCDSB policies and procedures, visit www.scdsb.on.ca and click on 'Board' in the menu.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next school council meeting will be held in the Library on Monday, November 4, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome!

WEATHER CHANGES & STUDENT CLOTHING

Pull out the boots and warm coats, our lovely summer days have come to an end.

Because of the cold/wet weather we ask that you send a spare set of clothing including mitts & hats to school and ensure they are clearly marked with the student's name!



ID Reminder – Parents and visitors are reminded to check in at the office and that all adults in the building are expected to wear NAME TAG ID CARDS. We maintain a stock of visitor and volunteer tags for your use while at the school. *Please remember to return the ID to the office prior to leaving for home. Thanks.*



**DON'T FORGET!!!!!!
CHANGE THE CLOCKS BACK
ONE HOUR
ON SATURDAY NIGHT
(NOVEMBER 2nd)**



DECEMBER FOOD ORDERS

**Due back November 18
(forms available on line)**

BUS CANCELLATION INFORMATION IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

Fall weather has certainly arrived, which means winter is just around the corner in Simcoe County. With it comes the possibility of severe inclement weather conditions, challenging winter driving conditions and, as a result, possible bus and school event cancellations.

All information regarding cancelled buses in Simcoe County is posted on the Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium's bus information website at www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca. Our school is in the North Zone. When buses are cancelled, please remember that schools are still open (unless otherwise noted) for student learning.

When buses are cancelled, all schedule school trips will also be cancelled.

The Consortium, in conjunction with bus operators, will make the decision to cancel school buses before 6 a.m. and as such, will make every effort to post announcements between 6 and 7 a.m. Parents should also note that inclement weather cancellations are effective for the whole day and buses cancelled in the morning will not run at the end of the day.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

We understand that sometimes it is necessary for medication to be administered at school during school hours. It is mandatory that an Administration of Medication Form, Form A1420 be completed and signed by a physician before any medication can be administered. This includes all medication including prescription and over-the counter (i.e. Advil). This form can be downloaded and printed from our school website <http://orc.scdsb.on.ca> and are also available in our main office.



LOST & FOUND

Please take a moment the next time you are in the school to check our lost and found for missing clothing or other items. We will hold the items until after Parent/Teacher Interviews and then will donate remaining clothing.



IMPORTANT NOVEMBER DATES!

November 4 –	School Council Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the Library
November 6 –	Grade 8 Day
Mid – November	Chess Club – open to all students in grade 4 – 8 regardless of playing ability
November 11 –	Remembrance Day Assembly
November 14 & 15 –	Parent Teacher Interviews
November 17-23 –	Bully Awareness and Prevention Week
End of November	Intermediate Volleyball House League

Orchard Park ES - October Food Drive – 2013

The Orchard Park students and parents/guardians have shown what a caring community they are with their generous donations to the food drive held in the third week of October. In an effort to increase donations, the grade seven students in Mr. Finney's and Mrs. Casselman's classes organized and promoted games of "Capture the Flag" (in grades 4-8) for those students who brought in Food Drive items during a Friday fitness break. The students prepared persuasive posters, wrote and took part in the daily announcements and set up and refereed the Intermediate and Junior games. They demonstrated true leadership during this initiative. Thank you to all our parents and students for your big hearts, and to the Junior Student Council organizing the food items. We collected 34 boxes of food, totaling 767 items. This was our most successful Food Drive to date! We will be holding our final food drive before the Christmas Holidays!



We strive to provide an environment free of peanuts and tree nuts to ensure the safety of our students with severe allergies. **Thank you** for sending **peanut-free sandwiches and nut-free snacks** with your child (ren).